

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 6, 2016, 4 PM @ BANGS CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT; Aaron Kropf (Chair), Nancy Pagano (Treasurer/Staff Liaison, Andy Steinberg, (Select Board Liaison) Naomi Elliott, Denise Boyd, William Stenzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Jane Watson, Abida Adnan, Helen Mac Mellon (Secretary), Tina Swift, Cindy Harbeson

MINUTES APPROVED FROM December 6, 2016

Committee signed cards to the Mayor of Kanegasaki and to Daniel Degrasse.

Aaron distributed nicely done journals of the trip made by last years visiting Kanegasaki students to the committee, host families and town.

2017 Kanegasaki student visit is scheduled for March 22-26, 2017

Wednesday, March 22, there will be a reception at Town Hall at 4:30 PM.

Plans are for the students to visit the Hitchcock Center, schools, Yankee Candle and perhaps go to Shelburne Falls for candlepin bowling. In addition, plans are for the students to visit the UMASS language department.

Sunday, March 26, a brunch is planned with yogurt and fruit but no quiche.

Kanegasaki plans on bringing over 12-14 students including 4 high school students. Aaron will take of finding the HS students places to stay, etc.

The students from Kanegasaki will have flu shots before they come.

TRIP TO KANEGASAKI DISCUSSION:

Aaron Kropf and Denise Boyd have been researching ways to take a group of students to Kanegasaki. It may be a private group of students & families, rather than a Town sister city student exchange originating with the Amherst Public Schools. Amherst school policy will not allow a group of exchange students to go as per equity for all students; private pay would preclude participation of some children. The committee does not have the funds to offer scholarships or partial payment to local students.

Denise has been in contact with ITD, to find out if they will run this trip.

Approximate cost \$4,000 PER PERSON for a group of 10-12. There is an issue with

liability for the travelers and ITD has the structure in place to cover this. Also, discussed was applying for the Freeman Foundation Application through ITD. So, perhaps a way to take interested students and expand the travel group to include families and students from Martha's Vineyard where Denise has ties.

Nancy Pagano expressed her desire to see a group of local farmers, businesses go to Kanegasaki as part of the sister city visitor exchange to share ideas on the town level. Exchange Recycling practices, etc.

Andy Steinberg discussed the tenure of the board for the Town's sister city committees, La Paz and Kanegasaki. A question of whether the sister cities can be excused from following the Town's committee member guidelines. Is there a way to have the Town reduce the quorum needed on these committees?

End of meeting: 5:04 p.m.

No January meeting.

Next Meeting: February 2017 day to be determined.